**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*
*Southern District of Indiana*

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**CONTACT PERSON:**
SUSAN W. BROOKS
United States Attorney
(317) 226-6333
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

# INDIANAPOLIS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MAIL

## PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that CYNTHIA MATTHEWS, 41, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 26 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Sarah E. Barker following her guilty plea to possession of stolen mail. This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

According to facts presented in court today, MATTHEWS was arrested on March 22, 2002, by Marion County Sheriff's deputies, after a vehicle stop in which she was found to have in her possession blank checks which had previously been stolen from a residential mailbox of Indianapolis residents James and Cynthia Eiteljorg. A subsequent investigation by

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the United States Postal Inspectors resulted in a search warrant being executed at

MATTHEWS' residence on March 27, 2002.  During the search of MATTHEWS' residence,

the Postal Inspectors recovered 236 pounds of undelivered mail at the residence.  A total of

2,351 pieces of mail, stolen from over 900 postal customers, was recovered.  Included in that

mail were 164 negotiable checks totaling $172,689.61.  MATTHEWS admitted to Postal

Inspectors that she had stolen the mail from mailboxes throughout the Indianapolis area.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Susan Heckard Dowd, who prosecuted

the case for the government, Judge Barker also imposed 3 years supervised release following

MATTHEWS's release from imprisonment.


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